

Attorney Docket No. 5772.02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of

Paul J. CORNAY et al.

Confirmation No.: 7758

Application No.: 09/828,296

Examiner: Charles E. Cooley

Filed: April 6, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1723

Title: CONCENTRIC TUBULAR
CENTRIFUGEHonorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**Proposed Claim Amendments and Request for
Reconsideration of Terminal Disclaimer**

Sir:

In the Office action dated 04 September 2003 in the above-referenced case, the Examiner rejected the terminal disclaimer filed on 04 August 2003. In the rejection, the Examiner alleged the signing attorney was not of record in the instant case.

The present application was filed under USPTO customer number 20686, granting apparent power of attorney to all attorneys associated with the customer number. Further, a Power of Attorney by Assignee was filed on 05 September 2002, granting power of attorney to customer number 20686. As confirmed during a telephone conference with the Examiner on 16 September 2003, the attorney who signed the terminal disclaimer is listed under the above-referenced customer number. Accordingly, reconsideration of the terminal disclaimer is respectfully requested.

Further, during the same teleconference, the Assignee's attorney discussed several claim amendments with the Examiner. In accordance with that conversation, draft amended claims follow for the Examiner's consideration.

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15. The centrifuge of claim 11 further comprising a second motor operably connected to said a conveyor screw located within said inner tube of said arm assembly, the second motor for driving said conveyor screw.

23. A centrifuge for accepting an input mixture and for separating a light material that is within the input mixture from a heavy material that is within the input mixture, comprising:

- a central member rotatable on an axis of rotation;
- a first arm assembly mounted on one side of said central member;
- a second arm assembly mounted on an opposite side of said central member;
- said first and second arm assemblies rotatable in a plane that extends generally perpendicular to said axis of rotation;
- each of said first and second arm assemblies ~~arms~~ having;
- an outer housing having a closed outer end and an inner end mounted to said central member;
- an intermediate tube having an open outer end and an inner end mounted to said central member;
- an inner tube having an open outer end and an inner end mounted to said central member;
- said outer housing, intermediate tube and inner tube being concentrically arranged;
- said inner tube having a given length;
- said intermediate tube having a length that is less than said given length; and
- said outer end of said outer housing being physically spaced from said outer end of said intermediate tube and from said outer end of said inner tube;
- an input mixture flow path communicating with a cylindrical space between said intermediate tube and said inner tube;
- a heavy material flow path communication with a space within said inner tube;
- a light material flow path communication with a cylindrical space between said intermediate tube and said outer housing;
- a first conveyer screw located within said inner tube of said first arm assembly;
- a second conveyer screw located within said inner tube of said second arm assembly;
- first drive means connected to effect rotation of said body central member and said first and second arm assemblies about said axis of rotation; and

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second speed controllable drive means connected to effect rotation of said first and second conveyer screws.

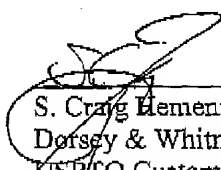
27. The centrifuge of claim 26 further comprising a drive shaft; and wherein said drive shaft and said discharge cone extend in opposite directions away from said ~~body~~ central member.

30. The centrifuge of claim 29 further comprising a drive shaft; and wherein said hydraulic motor is mounted within said a heavy material output cavity.

Such amendments, if entered by Examiner's Amendment, should eliminate the remaining § 112 rejections and place the application in condition for allowance (presuming the previously-filed terminal disclaimer is accepted). The undersigned respectfully requests the Examiner's thoughts on the proposed amendments, as well as whether an Examiner's Amendment may be entered in this application.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2003

Respectfully submitted:


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USP/FO Customer No. 20686

SCH/sd